

# Retired jeweler and wife safe after kidnapping

MAR 12 1983

By Harry Harris  
Tribune Staff Writer

A retired Oakland jeweler and his wife are both back home safely today after being held captive almost 24 hours by an ex-convict who stole money and jewelry from them, and even forced them to buy an airplane ticket for his friend, police said.

Buford Webber, 67, was freed Thursday afternoon from a downtown motel room where he had been hogtied to a bed with pieces of sheet. His wife of 41 years, Lawanna, 65, had been rescued moments earlier by San Leandro police who were tipped off by an alert Bank of America teller.

In custody for investigation of a variety of charges, including kidnapping, false imprisonment, assault and robbery, is Craig McDonald, 28, who was paroled from state prison last October after serving a term for rape.

Oakland police Sgt. Bill Gillespie said McDonald who lived across the street from the Webbers on Byron Street asked Webber to appraise some jewelry at McDonald's home.

Instead of producing jewelry, McDonald produced a gun and ice pick and demanded money. McDonald allegedly took \$30 cash from the cou-

ple and some rings, Gillespie said.

He also forced the couple to drive him to the Oakland Airport where they purchased a roundtrip ticket from Los Angeles for a woman friend of McDonald's and her son.

After that McDonald and the Webbers, forced to act as his friends, met the woman and her son at the San Francisco airport. The group had dinner together before the Webbers were imprisoned in a motel at Seventh Street at Broadway.

The ordeal ended Thursday after McDonald drove Lawanna Webber to the Bank of America branch on East 14th Street in San Leandro where she was forced to write a check for \$2,250, Gillespie said.

But, the sergeant said, teller Ethel Cherniss sensed something amiss and convinced McDonald she only had \$500 in cash but would give them a cashier's check for the balance which could be cashed at another branch of the bank on Fairmont Drive in San Leandro.

McDonald was arrested at the second bank after he cashed the check. Gillespie said McDonald's friend will not be charged because she believed the Webbers were McDonald's friends.